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U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Mines

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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Bismuth, Quarterly

BISMUTH IN THE SECOND QUARTER 1993

Domestic consumption of bismuth in the second quarter decreased slightly from that of the first quarter and 3% from that of the second quarter 1992, according to the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

The domestic dealer price for bismuth, as reported in Metals Week, remained steady throughout the quarter at \$2.30 to \$2.70 per pound. This was unchanged from the first quarter.

Update:

The price had not changed at the time of publication.

In Mexico, Industrial Minera México S.A. (IMMSA), closed its Monterrey lead refinery and the Chihuahua lead smelter in July, reportedly because of environmental problems with the accumulation of waste material onsite. The Monterrey refinery produced impure bismuth bullion that was shipped to Europe for refining.

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TABLE 1
SALIENT BISMUTH STATISTICS

(Kilograms)

	1992	1993		
		First quarter	Second quarter	Year to date
Consumption1-----	1,472,527	362,271	354,891	717,162
Exports2-----	90,320	32,217	NA	3/39,483
Imports for consumption-----	1,620,534	322,667	NA	3/534,457
Price per pound, dealer, end of period-----	\$2.66	\$2.53	\$2.53	\$2.53
Stocks, end of period, consumer-----	254,123	234,466	246,549	246,549

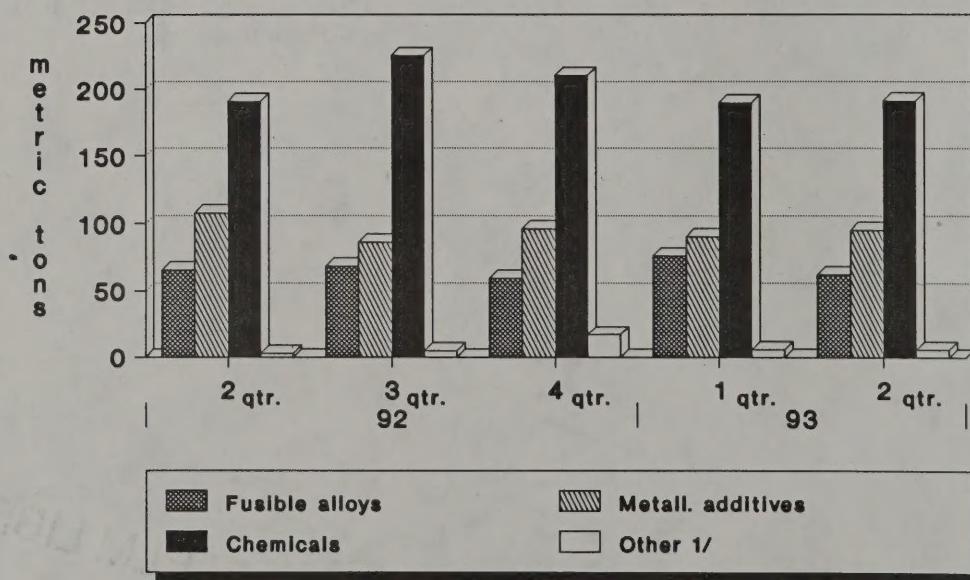
NA Not available.

1/Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents that consumed 93% of the total bismuth metal in 1992.

2/Includes bismuth, bismuth alloys, and waste and scrap; bismuth content.

3/Total includes January-May data.

Consumption of Bismuth Metal in the U.S. (Bismuth content)



1/Includes alloys and other uses

TABLE 2
BISMUTH METAL CONSUMED IN THE UNITED STATES, BY USE
(Kilograms, bismuth content)

	1992	1993 1/		
		First quarter	Second quarter	Year to date
Chemicals ^{2/} -----	757,873	189,950	191,661	381,611
Fusible alloys-----	300,954	76,317	62,372	138,689
Metallurgical additives-----	380,992	90,561	95,415	185,976
Other ^{3/} -----	32,708	5,443	5,443	10,886
Total-----	1,472,527	362,271	354,891	717,162

1/Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents that consumed 93% of the total bismuth metal in 1992.

2/Includes pharmaceuticals, industrial and laboratory chemicals, and cosmetics.

3/Includes experimental and other uses.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF BISMUTH METAL, BY COUNTRY
(Kilograms)

Country	1992	1993 1/				
		March	First Quarter	April	May	Jan.-May totals
Belgium-----	467,386	--	32,200	58,323	17,234	107,757
Canada-----	40,453	700	5,907	744	--	6,651
China-----	287,236	39,436	55,841	8,063	51,648	115,552
Germany-----	42,988	--	377	181	--	558
Hong Kong-----	18,797	--	--	--	--	--
Japan-----	57	--	--	--	--	--
Kazakhstan-----	--	--	--	14,754	--	14,754
Korea, Republic of-----	9,739	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico-----	550,469	40,496	155,682	30,000	19,819	205,501
Peru-----	75,691	20,190	23,815	10,024	--	33,839
Spain-----	2,150	1,150	1,150	--	1,000	2,150
Switzerland-----	97	--	--	--	--	--
Taiwan-----	--	--	500	--	--	500
United Kingdom-----	125,471	32,783	47,195	--	--	47,195
Total-----	1,620,534	134,755	322,667	122,089	89,701	534,457

1/June data not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF BISMUTH, BISMUTH ALLOYS, WASTE AND SCRAP, BY COUNTRY
(Kilograms)

Country	1992	1993 1/				Jan.-May totals
		March	First Quarter	April	May	
Argentina-----	50	--	--	--	--	--
Belgium-----	37,866	17,815	17,815	--	--	17,815
Canada-----	24,628	451	2,196	1,638	5,552	9,386
Colombia-----	880	--	--	--	--	--
France-----	--	--	--	--	22	22
Germany-----	19,837	--	9	--	--	9
Hong Kong-----	482	--	--	--	--	--
India-----	100	--	--	--	--	--
Indonesia-----	--	100	100	--	--	100
Israel-----	13	--	--	--	--	--
Japan-----	194	--	6,714	--	--	6,714
Korea, Republic of-----	102	--	--	--	54	54
Mexico-----	3,500	--	--	--	--	--
Peru-----	13	--	--	--	--	--
Singapore-----	907	--	4,748	--	--	4,748
Taiwan-----	998	--	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom-----	356	635	635	--	--	635
Venezuela-----	394	--	--	--	--	--
Total-----	90,320	19,001	32,217	1,638	5,628	39,483

1/June data not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census.



U.S. Bureau of Mines

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

Contact: David Barna

Mineral Information Now Available By Fax

MINES FAXBACK SYSTEM PROVIDES RAPID ACCESS TO USBM DATA

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MINES FaxBack works from any G3 fax machine equipped with a touch-tone telephone (either a built-in handset with touch-tone capability or a separate touch-tone telephone plugged into the fax machine's phone jack). After calling MINES FaxBack, the requester is guided by a series of voice messages that assist the caller in ordering the desired documents. The caller pays for the phone call that also includes the time needed to deliver the requested document to the caller's fax machine.

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Other documents of special interest to first-time callers might be the listings of USBM mineral commodity specialists (document #1000) and the form used to have one's name added to the Bureau's mailing list to receive publications on a regular basis (document #2000).

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2. Listen to the menu options and punch in the number of your selection.
3. Press the start button on your fax machine.

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The Minerals Source

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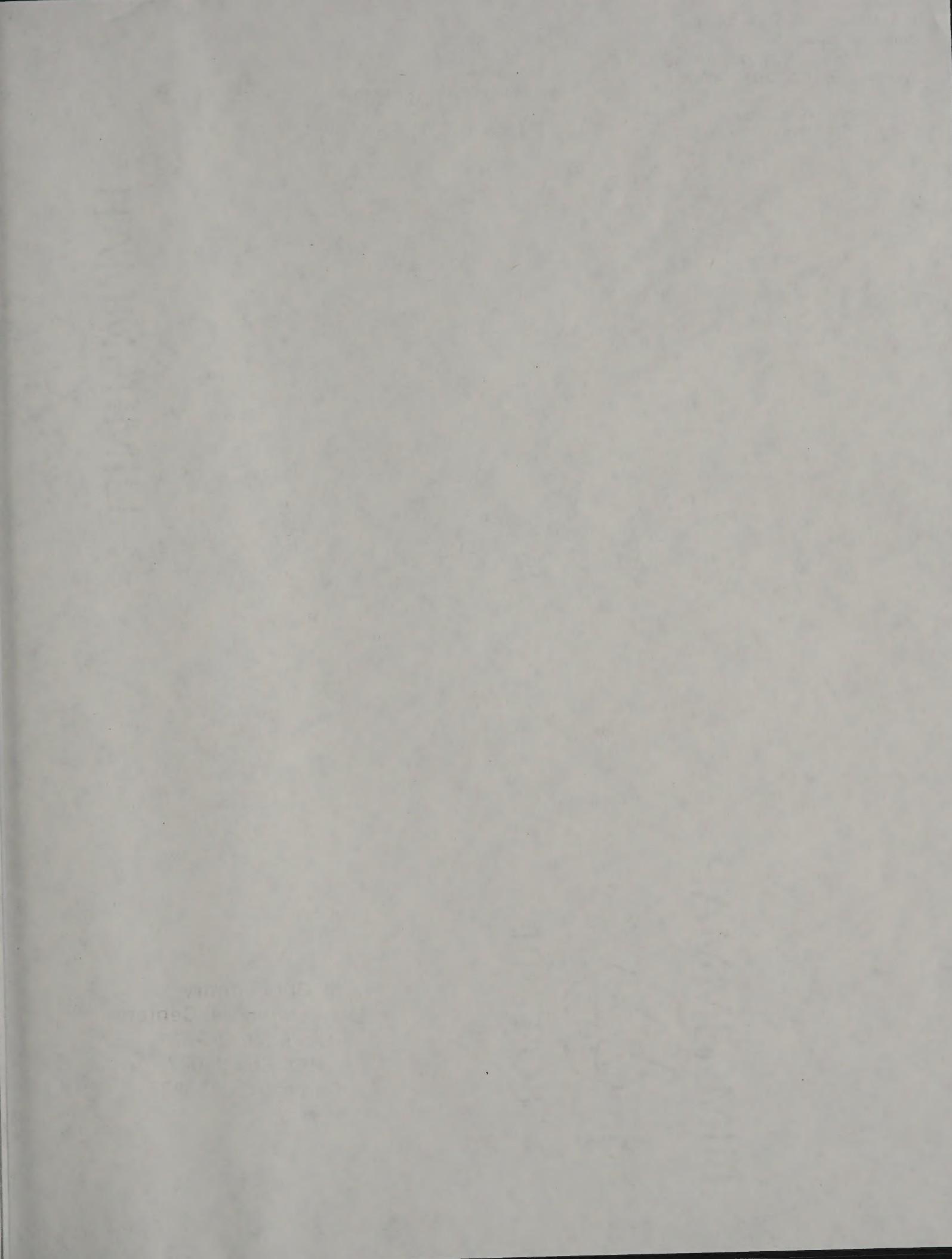
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